



City of Milton-Freewater City News

www.mfcity.com

Winter - 2011

January, February & March 2011

A Message From

Mayor Key



On behalf of the Council it is my pleasure to announce the re-election of three of our City Councilors. Councilors Chesnut, Irving and Lyon were re-elected by voters during the past general election. They will be sworn in at the January 10th meeting.



Councilor Ed Chesnut
At Large #3
Term: January 2015.

Councilor Chesnut was re-elected and will begin his second term of office in January.



Councilor Steve Irving
At Large #2
Term: January 2015.

Councilor Irving was re-elected and will begin his third term of office in January.



Councilor Orrin Lyon
Ward 1
Term: January 2015.

Councilor Lyon former 2010 Council President was re-elected and will begin his fourth term of office January.

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CUSTOMER OF THE QUARTER

Okay, so we have all had “ONE OF THOSE DAYS”. One of those days that you get that E-mail or phone call that reminds you why you go back to work every day. The one that says “Thank you” in a kind, courteous and genuine tone.

This quarter I, your Public Works Assistant/Project Aide as well as City News Publisher and Editor, was asked to nominate a customer of the quarter. The first thought that came to mind was *JUST ONE?* So since it was my turn to nominate a customer of the quarter I am going to bend the rules just a bit and acknowledge a few of the citizens who make my day.

Susan Dohrmann – Susan is always kind and complimentary. She frequently acknowledges the work we do and shares her appreciation. She spends hours of her own time volunteering in the community to make it a great place to call home.

Jeanette Muse – Jeanette and I speak only two to three times per year and have met person to person a time or two, but when I get to serve her it is such a great reminder of why working in the public sector really isn't that bad. She is so polite and such a joy to serve.

I am able to assist **Beverley McRae** on occasion and her polite calm demeanor is enough to put the smile on my face and realize people really do appreciate our assistance.

It is always a delight to see **Nancy Doherty's** smiling face come through our office door. She has spent many hours working to make the city a better place as well. You always know how to make people feel good about themselves and smile. You definitely make me smile every time I have the pleasure of serving you.

Last, but certainly not least – **Sheila Hagar**. Sheila you have blessed me with several humorous articles, E-mails and conversations specifically related to whom else but “Mr. Wonderful”! On many occasions we referred to your service request as “Mr. Wonderful” and many thought we were referring to a man, not a temporary 300 gallon garbage can. Now our secret is out! You are always a joy to serve and I look forward to the next time you request a visit from “Mr. Wonderful”.

And to the many, many others out there that I am blessed to serve. Thank you for not only making my lifelong hometown Milton-Freewater a great place to proudly call home but to serve as well!

Yours Truly,
Krista Sheridan

Public Works Assistant/Project Aide & City News Publisher/Editor



Mr. Wonderful and Sheila -
“He always gets the job done
quietly with no complaints.”

Mid-term Councilors -

Along with the congratulations to our re-elected councilors we are pleased to recognize the service of ALL of our City Council.



Mayor Lewis Key
Term: January 2013

Mayor Key is currently serving his third term of office.



Councilor Brad Humbert
Ward 2

Term: January 2013

Councilor Humbert is currently serving his second term of office.



Councilor Sam Hopkins-Hubbard
Ward 3

Term: January 2013

Councilor Hopkins-Hubbard is currently serving his first term of office.



Councilor Jeff Anliker
At Large #1

Term: January 2013

Councilor Anliker is currently serving his first term of office.

-By Krista Sheridan

HOLIDAY CLOSURES



Observed: Monday, January 17th
Garbage Day: Tuesday, January 18th



Observed Monday, February 21st
Garbage Day: Tuesday, February 22nd

Events @Your Public Library

Supertime Stories for preschoolers and their parents – Tuesday's @ 6:30 p.m.

Oldies Night @ The Library – First Friday of each month @ 7:30 p.m.
1/7/11, 2/4/11, 3/4/11 & 4/1/11

Call 541-938-8247 for information.

VIPS Program Makes a Difference!



Thanks to our local Volunteers in Police Services (VIPS) actively patrolling our community several vandals have been witnessed in the act by our dedicated volunteers, caught by police, and have been made accountable for their offenses. With vandalism becoming a recurrent problem in our community our VIPS volunteers have definitely made a difference! One example dates back to this past August during the Muddy Frogwater Festival at Yantis Park when VIPS members witnessed vandals in the act at Yantis Park who had also vandalized several private properties throughout our community. Thanks to the dedicated volunteerism they were caught by police and will be held accountable for the damage they did.

City workers spend hours upon hours each week keeping your lights on, your neighborhoods and recreation facilities clean and safe for you and your families to enjoy along with many other services. When it comes down to it our parks department spends a lot of time cleaning up after vandals who have done everything from painting graffiti on facilities, breaking fixtures and windows to setting fire to restroom facilities.

From June 7th to November 3rd of this year, staff has spent over 50 hours cleaning up and repairing damage done by vandals in our parks alone! This does not include the time spent by vendors who have had to be called in to unplug clogged drains and repair broken windows let alone our emergency service providers and the myriad of reporting they must complete for each offense. Nor does it include costs associated with damage done to private residences and businesses in town that must also comply with city code (8-10-7) and remove the graffiti "as soon as practicable but in no event shall the graffiti be left longer than two (2) business days after notification of the incident".

During this timeframe which is equal to 576 hours worked, a single staff member spent an hour repairing and cleaning up damage of vandals every 11.52 hours worked in our parks alone during this short time. The expense of materials to repair the damage came to \$1,266.26.

If you are interested in helping to make a difference in this community and would like to become a VIPS volunteer contact Chief Boedigheimer at 541-938-5511. Together we can continue to make a difference in our community!

-By Krista Sheridan with contributions by Chief Doug Boedigheimer and Craig Rouse

YOU GOT A NEW TELEVISION AND COMPUTER FOR CHRISTMAS? Let us help you recycle the old ones for FREE!

With the Christmas Holiday past us, many of our customers may be wondering how to dispose of their old television, computer monitors and hard drives or laptops.

DO NOT PUT THESE IN YOUR GARBAGE CAN! Beginning January 1, 2010 disposal of these items, also known as CED's, became prohibited in Oregon to be disposed of in the landfills.

Let us and Humbert Refuse and Recycling help you out for FREE! The City of Milton-Freewater partnered up with Humbert Refuse in January 2010 to offer FREE disposal of your E-waste. YES, FREE!!!

So you ask, "What do I do?"

Easy! Just take them to the free drop off collection site at Humbert Refuse & Recycling's office located behind the drive-in theater screen at 54841 Hwy 332, Milton-Freewater, OR. The site is open during the hours of 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. every Tuesday through Thursday. Call Humbert Refuse at 541-938-4188 or the Public Works Department at 541-938-8270 for details.

-By Krista Sheridan & Cindy Granger

CITY PROJECT UPDATES



Transportation and Pedestrian Improvements - \$3,000,000

Anderson-Perry & Associates is currently working on the design engineering of the projects funded by Oregon State House Bill 2001 – “Jobs and Transportation Act”. We are anticipating design engineering to be done late winter/early spring 2011 with construction to be completed by Fall 2011.

-By Krista Sheridan

Smart Grid Demonstration Update

It's official!

All pilot test electric and water meters have been installed.

The 90-day pilot project began on October 18th. Water and electric meters began reading and sending data over the power line communication system when the system was activated. During this time the software and various applications will be fully operational.

Fifty electric meters and 650 water meters have been installed.

Weather permitting, water meter installation will continue through the winter.

One thousand electric meters have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive in March 2011.

-By Krista Sheridan and Mike Charlo

“There are a few surprises, but with a new system like this, this should be expected. Our trained staff is doing a very good job with the system.”

-Mike Charlo, Electric Superintendent and Smart Grid Project Manager



CONSERVATION CORNER

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS OFFERED BY CITY LIGHT & POWER

FREE energy audits and FREE ‘No Obligation’ bids (by our approved contractors)

REBATES OFFERED:

- Insulation - \$0.50/square foot (rebate will not exceed 50% of total project cost)
- Windows - \$6.00/square foot for approved windows
- Heat Pumps - \$500.00 to \$1,900.00
- Energy Star Appliances – Contact Pat Didion at 541-938-8237 for current offers.

We also offer a residential loan program for the measures listed above for the customers with approved credit.

BEFORE purchasing any of these products to ensure rebate qualification contact our Conservation Specialist, Pat Didion at 541-938-8237.

Christmas Tree Removal

City residents may have their Christmas trees removed at no charge during the week of January 3rd – 7th 2011.

All lights, stands and decorations must be removed and trees must be placed along curb within designated dates. Inquiries can be directed to Public Works at 938-8270 or 8272.



IMPORTANT! Winter Heating Safety

Have you checked your smoke detector batteries recently?

Smoke and Carbon monoxide detectors should be checked monthly. Chimneys and flues on fireplaces and woodstoves should be cleaned and inspected annually. Heaters should be kept at least three (3) feet away from combustible materials and unplugged when not in use or before going to bed to name a few fire safety tips.

According to a news release dated June 4, 2010 from the Oregon Fire Marshal and a study covering civilian fire fatalities in Oregon between 2004 and 2008 the following was found:

- Fifty-percent of all fire fatalities during this five-year period occurred in single- or two-family housing, 31% occurred in mobile homes or trailers used as residences, and 17% occurred in apartments or other multi-family housing.
- The top four causes of fatal fires are smoking material, candles, electrical, and combustibles too close to a heat source.
- Increase cigarette-caused fire education. Cigarettes continue to be the top cause of fire fatalities, accounting for 46% of the deaths.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/>

City of
Milton-Freewater
PO Box 6
Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

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CITY OF MILTON-FREEWATER INFORMATION

City Manager 938.8242
City Recorder 938.8233
Community Development 938.8236
Conservation 938.8237
Electric Department 938.8231 or 938.8232
Engineering 938.8230 or 938.8238
Finance Department (utility bill payments/taxi tickets)
938.5531
Fire Business 938.8256
Golf Course 938.7284
Human Resources 938.8243
Library 938.8247
Municipal Court 938.8203
Planning & Zoning 938.8234 or 938.8235
Police Business 938.5511
Public Works 938.8270 or 938.8272

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January 2011

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8th
Monday, January 10th
Monday, January 24th

Planning Commission 7 p.m.
Monday, January 3rd

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.
Tuesday, January 4th

Library Board, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, January 26th

February 2011

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8th
Monday, February 14th
Monday, February 28th

Planning Commission 7 p.m.
Monday, February 7th

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.
Tuesday, February 1st

Library Board, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, February 23rd

March 2011

City Council 7 p.m.

Albee Room, 8 SW 8th
Monday, March 14th
Monday, March 28th

Planning Commission 7 p.m.
Monday, March 7th

Recreation Committee 5 p.m.
Tuesday, March 1st

Library Board, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 30th

All meetings are open to the public. The locations of the meetings are handicapped accessible. Please call City Hall 938-5531, or write the City of Milton-Freewater, PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 if you will need any special accommodations or an interpreter to attend or participate in the meeting.

NEXT ISSUE: April 1st

Milton-Freewater City News – PO Box 6, Milton-Freewater, OR 97862 • Publisher/Editor: Krista Sheridan • City Manager: Linda Hall